(b) whether it is a fact that the French authorities and the metro companies have evinced keen interest for technical assistance in Delhi's rapid transport system;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a proposal for equity participation and technology transfer with some Public Undertakings is already in the pipeline; and

(d) if so, what are the details in respect of parts (a) to (c) above indicating the names of French Companies willing to help Indian Housing Finance Companies, either individually or through National Housing Board among others, for low income housing projects?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with the French Government pertaining to cooperation in urban development sector. An outline proposal pertaining to social housing, training, research and building materials industry has been forwarded to the Government of France with a request to send an appraisal mission to India to discuss the proposal.

Purchase of Wheat

*44. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to undertake commercial purchases of wheat from the domestic market to cope with the shortage of foodgrains in the Central pool; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the government.

(b) Does not arise.

Vocational Training institutes for the Handicapped

*45. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that vocational training is being imparted to deaf, dumb and handicapped persons of 16 to 30 years of age at various training institutes in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether any financial assistance is being provided to such training institutes;

(c) if so, the details of such assistance provided during the last three years; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to provide vocational training to all able bodied deaf, dumb and handicapped persons of M.P. in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir. Vocational trainings are given by Non-Governmental organisations and Institutes.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Assistance is given under the Scheme of "Assistance to Organisations for the Disabled Persons" against specific project proposals. A list of Voluntary Organisations to whom grant-in-aid has been given for the last three years is enclosed as Statement (*See* below)

(d) The vocational training is given mostly through Voluntary Organisations. Government will welcome more organisations to work in this field.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the Organisation	Amount released	Project
1	2	3	4
	For 1989-90		
1	Asha Niketan, E-6, Arera Colony, Bhopal-462 016.	2,00,000/-	for construction of building.
2	M.P. Welfare Association for the Blind, 33-3/D, Industrial Estate, Fort Area, Indore.	15,836/-	for Placement Services
3	Welfare Association for the Disabled, 8, Ram Bagh, Indore.	15,050/-	for Office Management for O.H.
		36,114/-	for Placement Services
4	Mahesh Drishtiheen Kalyan Sangh, Indore.	2,00,000/-	for construction of building.
5	Sanjeevani Seva Sangam, Indore Residency Club, Indore.	15,081/-	for Workshop for Physically Handicapped persons.
	Total :	4,82,081/-	
	For 1990-91		
1	Miriam School for the Mentally Handicapped, B-Block, Asha Niketan Complex, E-6, Arera Colony, Bhopal.	1,50,000/-	for construction of building
2	Asha Niketan, Bhopal.	1,50,000/-	for construction of building
3	M.P. Welfare Association for the Blind, Indore.	14,901/-	for Placement Services
4	Welfare Association for the Disabled, Indore.	18,191/-	for Office Management for Placement Services
		52,628/-	
	Total :	3,85,720/-	
	For 1991-92		
1	Miriam School for the Mentally Handicapped, Bhopal.	1,50,000/-	for construction of building
		1,21,200/-	for construction of building
		82,038/-	for purchase of furniture and equipment.

1	2	3	4
2	Asha Niketan, Bhopal. . .	49,019/-	for purchase of furniture for Physically Disability Deptt.
		1,25,000/-	for construction of building
3	M.P. Welfare Association for the Blind, Indore.	15,714/-	for Placement Services
4	Marian Society, C-Block, Private Sector, E-6, Arera Colony, Bhopal.	55,472/-	for equipment & furniture for the deaf.
5	Welfare Association for the Disabled, Indore.	32,000/-	for Office Management
		43,465/-	for Placement Services.
	Total :	6,73,908/-	

Freezing of Grants by U.G.C.

*46. DR. SANJAYA SINH:
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that freezing of grants imposed by the U.G.C. has caused a major resource crunch in all the Central Universities;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and the reasons for the freeze;

(c) whether the Central Universities have introduced any austerity measures to cope with the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Central Universities are fully funded by the Central Government through the University Grants Commission (UGC). A major share of UGC's Non-Plan budget is made available to Central Universities and Delhi Colleges for their maintenance expenditure. Keeping in view the present constraint on the availability of financial resoruces Government has decided to maintain the level of Non-Plan expenditure of all Ministries/ Departments and autonomous bodies during 1992-93 at the level of last year. This has imposed resource constraints on UGC as well as Central Universities.

The Minister of Human Resource Development held consultations with Chairman, UGC and Vice-Chancellors of Central Universities to consider measures to mitigate the financial difficulties being faced by them. On the basis of these consultations, the UGC have withdrawn the Commission earlier orders of freezing the maintenance grants.

(c) and (d) During March-April, 1992 UGC held a series of consultations with Vice-Chancellors, Registrars, and Finance Officers of Central Universities and Principals of Delhi Colleges to cope with the situation. The economy measures identified in these meetings include reduction of expenditure on telephones, electricity, transport, water, stationery, etc. to the extent of 20 per cent. Curtailment in expenditure on hospitality, travel, study leave, teaching and non-teaching posts, etc.